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FEDERAL-STATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS and IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

for **NEVADA** March 1,1949



Division of Irrigation, Soil Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station
and
Nevada State Engineer

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local organizations listed on the last page of this report.

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FEDERAL-STATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

FOR

NEVADA

Report Prepared

bу

Clyde E. Houston, Irrigation Engineer
Division of Irrigation
Soil Conservation Service

and

H. P. Boardman-Chairman Nevada Cooperative Snow Surveys

Division of Irrigation
Soil Conservation Service
Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station
Reno, Nevada

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INDEX TO SNOW COURSES

NUMBE	RS NAME	ELEVATION	NUMBERS	NAME	ELEVATION	NUMBERS	NAME	ELEVATION
	SNAKE RIVER			TRUCKEE BASIN			CARSCN BASIN	
1	Boan Choole	7 900	1. (00	1.) Granite Peak .	8 200	1.(Cal.)	Carson Pass	8,600
1.	Bear Creek Fox Creek					2.(Cal.)	Poison Flat	. 7,900
4.	76 Creek			l.) Independence L l.) Webber Peak .		3.(Cal.)	Blue Lakes	8,000
			3	1.) Donner Summit.	•			
	Gold Creek			1.) Ward Creek		NOF	THERN GREAT BASI	N
6•	Big Bend	. 0,700		l.) Webber Lake.		1 0014	Mountain	6 720
	OWYHEE RIVER			1.) Sage Hen Creek			ster Peak	
	OWINDE RIVER			l.) Tahoe City		L. Dio	Stor roak s s	• 0,,,,,,
1.	Lower Buckskin	6 700		l.) Truckee #2			WALKER BASIN	
2.	Upper Buckskin			.) Independence Cr		1.(01.)	Center Mountain	9 400
3.	Martin Creek		;	1.) Boca #2	•		Sonora Pass.	
4.	Granite Peak			.) Furnace Flat .		, ,	Buckeye Forks.	
5.	Gold Creek			.) Fordyce Lake .			Virginia Lakes	
6.	Big Bend	6.700		1.) Soda Springs .			Willow Flat	
7.				1.) Independence Ca			Buckeye Roughs	
8.	Rodeo Flat		16.	Mt. Rose			Leavitt Meadows	
9.	Lower Jack Creek			.) Truckee Ranger			Tioga Pass	
10.	Upper Jack Creek				1 6,000	00(0020)	106a - 400 0 0	
11.	Tremewan Ranch	•	18. (Cal	.) Donner Lake			TAHOE BASIN	
12.	Taylor Canyon		19.	Big Meadows				
		•	20.	Little Valley.		1.(Cal.)	Lake Lucille .	8,400
	UPPER HUMBOLDT RIVE	iR _				2.(Cal.)	Rubicon #1	8,100
			3	LOWER COLORADO RIVI	ER	3.(Cal.)	Hagans Meadow.	8,000
1.	Bear Creek	. 7,800				: :	Freel Bench	
2.	Fox Creek	. 6,800	1. R	ainbow Canyon	7,800	1	Ward Creek	
4.	76 Creek	. 7,100	2. Ky	le Canyon	8,200		Upper Truckee.	
5.	Gold Creek	. 6,600	3. L	ee Canyon #1	8,300		Tahoe City	
6.			4. L	ee Canyon #2	9,000		Rubi con #2	
7.	Fry Canyon			ainbow Canyon #2.			Rubicon #3	
8.	Rodeo Flat	-	6. M	ica Notch	6,000		Richardsons #2	-
9.	Lower Jack Creek			ud Springs			Echo Summit.	
10.	Upper Jack Creek			athew Canyon		13.	Marlette Lake.	
11.	Tremewan Ranch		9. P	ine Canyon	. 6,200	14. 15.	Daggetts Pass.	-
12.	Taylor Canyon					16.	Glenbrook #2 . Mt. Rose	
13.	Lower Trout Creek			EASTERN NEVADA		10.	MC rose	,000
14.	Upper Trout Creek					CF	NTRAL GREAT BASII	N
15. 16.	Dorsey Basin			ave Creek		-		
17.	Ryan Ranch Dry Creek			ager Canyon		1.	Clark Canyon	9.000
18.	Lamoille #1			urray Summit		2.	Trough Springs.	
19.	Lamoille #2			aker #1 · · · ·			McAfee Forks	
20.	Lamoille #3			ker #2			Roberts Ranch .	
21.	Lamoille #4			aker #3			Goat Springs	
	Lamoille #6	•	_	ird Creek	•	6.(Cal.)	Sage Hen Flats.	. 10,500
	Green Mountain		0. D.	n a 0100V	• • 1,000	7. (Cal.)	Ranger Station.	• 9,500
	Harrison Pass #1			LOWER HUMBOLDT RI	VER	8.(Cal.)	White Mountain.	. 13,000
25.	. 11			Deman Hombonda 142	• 24.			
26.	Corral Canyon		1. L	ower Buckskin	. 6.700			
	·			pper Buckskin				
				artin Creek				
				anite Peak	•			
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				ig Creek Camp Groun				
				ig Creek Mine				
				pper Big Creek				
				ower Corral				
			11. U	pper Corral	8,500			

March 1, 1949 NEVADA PRELIMINARY WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

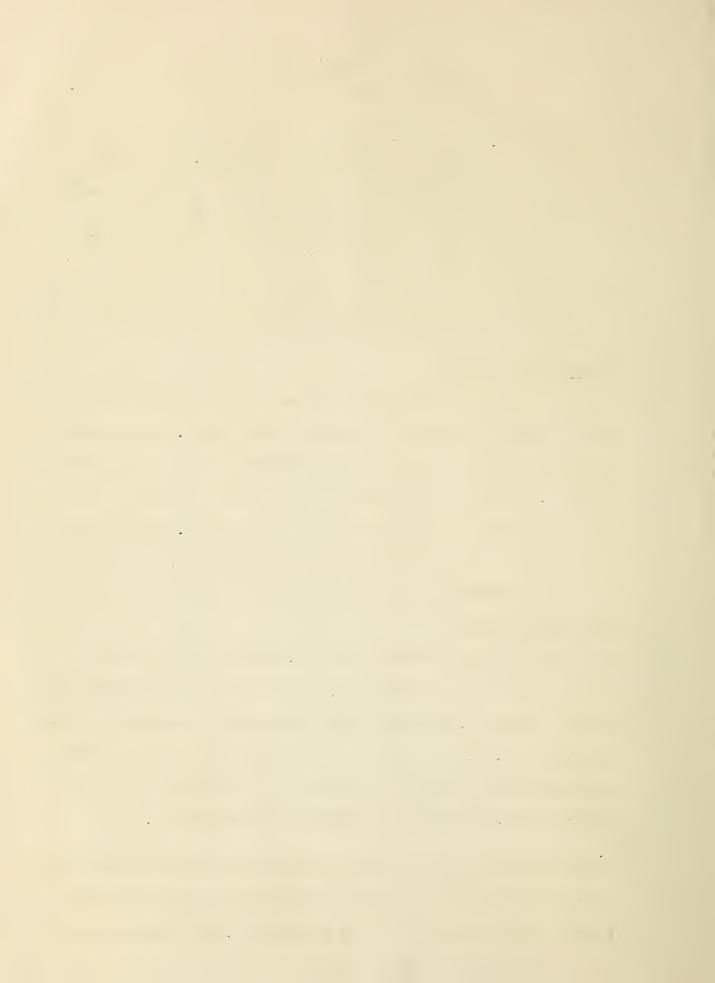
Snake River In Nevada

Snow stored water on headwaters of Pruneau River and Salmon Falls
Creek is about 150 percent of average for this date. Average snowfall
during March will produce very good streamflow throughout the summer
months. Owyhee River near Owyhee, Nevada, should flow about 50 percent above normal for the period April through July. Heavy drifting
and wind packing will tend to level off midseason flow and maintain
late season runoff.

Upper Humboldt River

Low elevation snow is unusually deep throughout the Upper Humboldt Basin. Subnormal precipitation since October caused a serious decline in soil moisture. Early snow coupled with very low temperatures to retain the snow blanket has protected the ground from freezing. Unless heavy rain falls on the low snow, much of the melt water will be retained by the soil rather than enter the stream systems.

Snow stored water on the northern feeders of Upper Humboldt River ranges from about twice average on the lower elevations to about 50 percent greater than average at the higher elevations. Early indications are



that Marys River, North Fork and Susie and Maggie Creeks will flow about 25 percent greater than normal.

Snow stored water on the southern feeders ranges from about twice average on low elevation snow courses to about 25 percent above average at the higher elevations. Heavy drifting and wind packing will tend to level off midseason flow and maintain late season runoff.

Lower Humboldt

Present snow cover indicates that discharge of Lower Humboldt River during the irrigation season will be fair. Rye Patch Reservoir with a capacity of 178,000 acre feet contained 56,000 acre feet on March 1. This is the lowest amount in storage since 1941. Unless above normal snow fall occurs during March, water users dependent upon this reservoir may be short of water.

The watershed above Paradise Valley contains slightly greater than average snow stored water at the low elevations, while the high snow courses are slightly less than average. Deficient soil moisture and heavy drifting will affect runoff into Paradise Valley which will probably be below normal.

Reese River snow courses contained about twice normal water content. Here soil moisture is also very low. Present snow melt is being absorbed by the soil.

Eastern Nevada

Water stored in snow above Clover and Ruby Valleys in Elko County ranges from 125 to 150 percent of average respectively.

Two recently established snow courses on Duck Creek Watershed near McGill contained about twice the water content this year as that

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grant the second of the second measured last year on this date.

Snow stored water at Murray Summit above the City of Ely was about twice normal and the same as that measured in 1936. This consists of a potential flood hazard should heavy rain fall on the existing snow. Soil under the snow is very dry and not frozen, which is conducive to absorption of much of the existing snow pack.

Low snow water in the Snake Range of Eastern White Pine County is about 50 percent above average while high snow is slightly less than average.

Lower Colorado River in Nevada

The Spring Mountains near Las Vegas contain about 140 percent of average snow water. Present cover is the highest recorded in the past 6 years on this date. Storage in Lake Mead on March 1 was 18,197,000 acre feet, or about 1,000,000 feet less than last year.

New snow courses on Pine and Mathew Canyon Watersheds tributary to Meadow Valley Wash near Caliente, Nevada, show a very slight increase in snow stored water since February 1. Soil beneath the snow is very dry and not frozen. Unless heavy rain falls on the snow pack it appears that the soil will absorb much of the snow melt.

Eastern Slope Sierra Nevada

Measured snow water at low elevations is greater than average for this date while that at high elevations is less. In as much as high elevation snow is the main contributor to irrigation season runoff, much greater than normal snow fall is needed during the next month to assure water supplies to meet all demands.

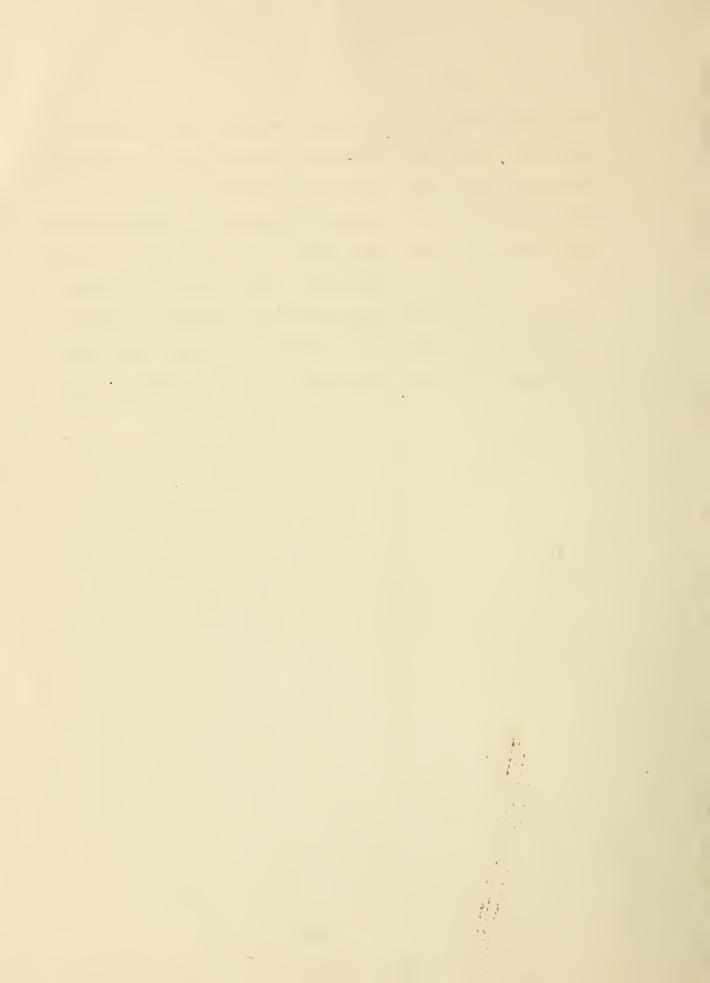
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In general, reservoir storage is very low. Lake Tahoe contained about 177,000 acre feet of available storage on March 1. This is the lowest amount in storage on this date since 1936. Lake Lahontan stored about 175,000 acre feet or 75 percent of the past ten year average, which is also the lowest amount in storage on this date since 1936. Topaz reservoir storing 19,000 acre feet was at its lowest level since 1932 and contained slightly over 40 percent of the last ten year average for this date. Bridgeport reservoir storing about 13,000 acre feet was about 35 percent of the past ten year average.



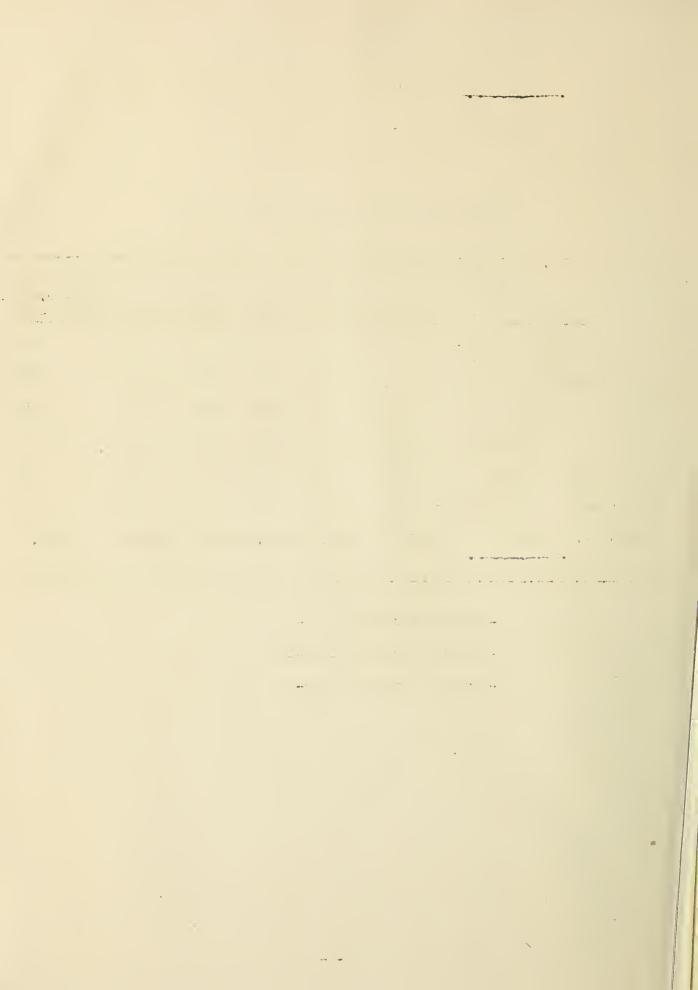
STATUS OF RESERVOIR STORAGE, MARCH 1, 1949

BASIN AND STREAM	RESERVO IR	USABLE CAPACITY (Thous. A.F.)	THOUS.	ACRE FEET	USABLE		ABOUT 10-yr. 1938 -	avg.
Owylee	Wildhorse	33		5	14	19		12ª
Lover Humboldt	Rye Patch	178	56	114	178	161		169 ^b
Tahce	Tahoe	750	177	264	508	543		483
Carson	Lahontan	286	175	179	220	229	•	233
West Walker	Topaz	59	19	24	46	56		1+14
East Walker	Bridgeport	115	13	21	加	38		37
Colorado	Me ad	27,935	18,197	19,148 16	,692	18 , 275	19,	564°

a - Average for years 1940-1947

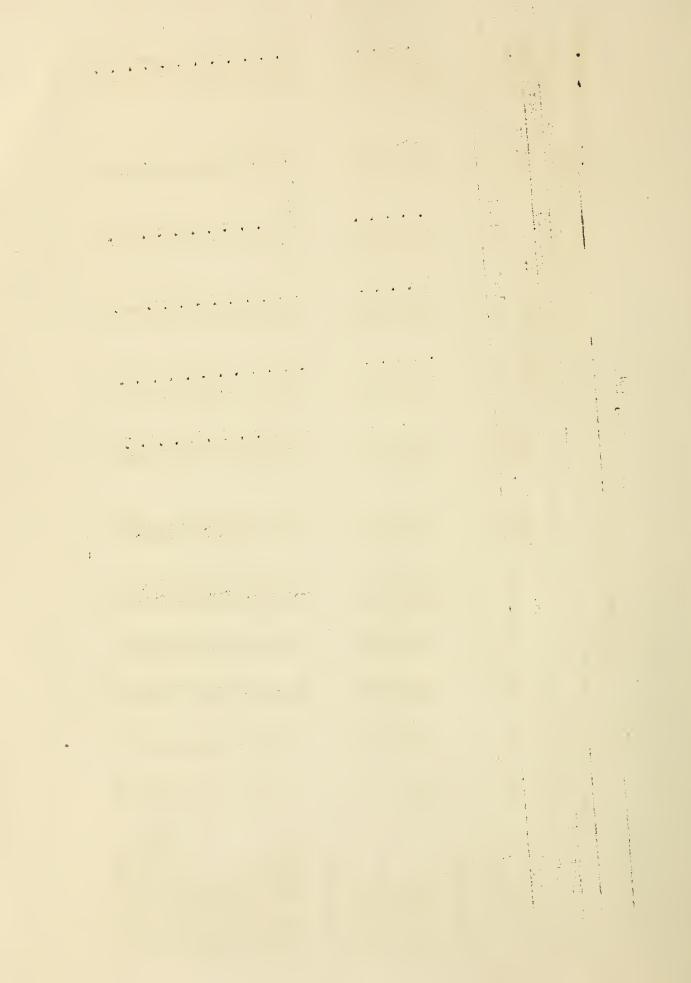
b - Average for years 1943-1947

c - Average for years 1939-1947



NEVADA SNOW SURVEYS MARCH 1, 1949

	Record	Av. Water Content	(Inches)			15.5	αοτ	- Y	000			8 ~	10.4	7.9	٠ د.	6.7	8.7	ස ස	2.6	4.9	8.6	5.6	ν. Θ.
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		Snow	(inches)			64.3	구 6 6	٠ ١ ٢ ٢	157			1,2.6	28.2	26.8	25.5	35.5	45.3	50.2	51.0	20.8	1,0.2	22.8	31.3
		Date	Survey			2/25	2/25 7/2	5/1 2/2	2/25			3/5	3/3	3/1	3/1	2/25	2/25	2/26	2/27	3/1	3/1	2/28	2/28
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		DRAINAGE BASIN	SNOW COURSE		SNAKE RIVER	Bear Creek	Fox Creek	76 Creek	Goja Creek Big Bend	Contract of Contraction	OWYHEE RIVER	Lower Buckskin	Upper Buckskin	Martin Creek	Granite Peak	Gold Creek	Big Bend	Fry Canyon	Rodeo Flat	Lower Jack Creek	Upper Jack Creek	Tremewan Ranch	Taylor Canyon



	\sim 1	Av. Water Content	(inches)		l r	ا ئور ئور	η•Ω	2.6	6.5	8.7	တ္	7.6	4.9	9.8	5.6	ν, ∞	2.0	19.6	10.8	2.0	ν. ν.	9•3	7.6	12,1	16.6	23.1	12.9	5.4	5.7	14.3	
	Pas	Years of	Record			T./	17	m	17	50	15	15	27	13	17	17	12	13	17	17	15	53	50	14	œ	14	14	20	19	17	
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SNOW COV	Content (inc	Same App	1948		(14.3	Ο χ	0°6	4.9	6.3	5°0	6.2	2.8	7.3	0	1.3	No Survey	16.5	9.3	0	1.8	6.7	8.4	10.6	13.9	17.5	9 5.	3.5	4.4	13.1	
- {	Water Co		1949	-	0	23.0	13.5	16.7	10.5	14.3	15.2	17.2	4.9	13.1	0.9	ထ	5.0	23.2	12.9	6•1	7.6	14.1	12.7	17.2	22.3	56.9	rey	6.9	rey	rey	
		Snow Depth	(inches)		·	64.3	15.0	51.1	35.5	45.3	50.2	51.0	20.8	40.2	22,8	31.3	20.4	62.9	56.6	18.7	32.2	0.44	39.0	146.2	57.5	73.7	Survey	27.5	Survey	Survey	
		Date	Survey		1	2/25	2/25	3/1	2/25	2/25	2/26	2/27	3/1	3/1	2/28	2/28	2/28	2/28	3/1	2/28	2/27	3/1	3/2	3/2	3/2	3/3	No	3/5	No	No	
		Flev.			d	2800	6800	7100	0099	0029	0029	9800	90089	7250	5700	6200	0069	8500	8100	5800	6500	7100	7300	2700	8000	8700	8000	0099	7400	8500	
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		DRAINAGE BASIN	SNOW COURSE	UPPER HUMBOLDT		Bear Creek	Fox Creek	76 Creek	Gold Creek	Big Bend	Fry Canvon	Rodeo Flat	Lower Jack Creek	Upper Jack Creek	Tremewan Ranch	Taylor Canyon	Lower Trout Creek	Upper Trout Creek	Dorsey Basin	Ryan Ranch	Dry Creek	Lamoille #1	Lamoille #2	Lamoille #3		Lamoille #5	Green Mountain	Harrison Pass #1	Harrison Pass #2	Corral Canyon	

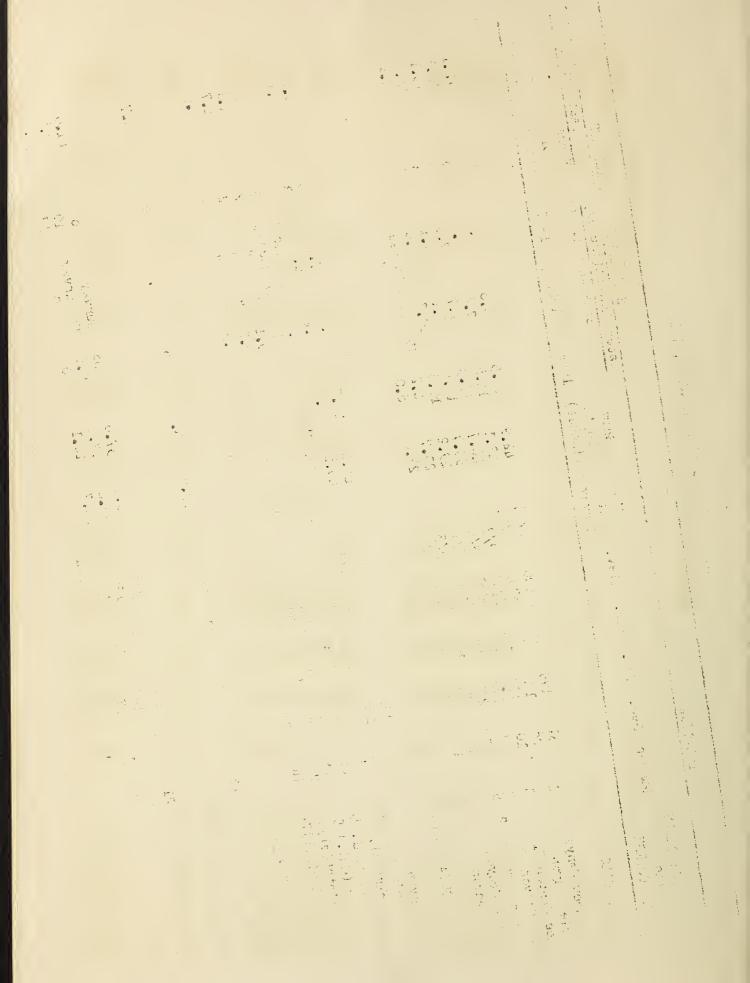
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	Water	1949		13.0	8.7	7.5	2.6	12.1	7.6	5.5	7.9	vev	. =	=		22.5	23.5	6.5	9°7	15.8	15.6	14.8	7.4	7.4	9.9	
	Snow	Depth (inches)		42.6	28.2	26.8	25.5	38.0	0440	23.4	29.5	No Survey		=		54.8	59.9	. 26.2	36.7	56.4	53.6	46.3	27.1	28.2	26.2	
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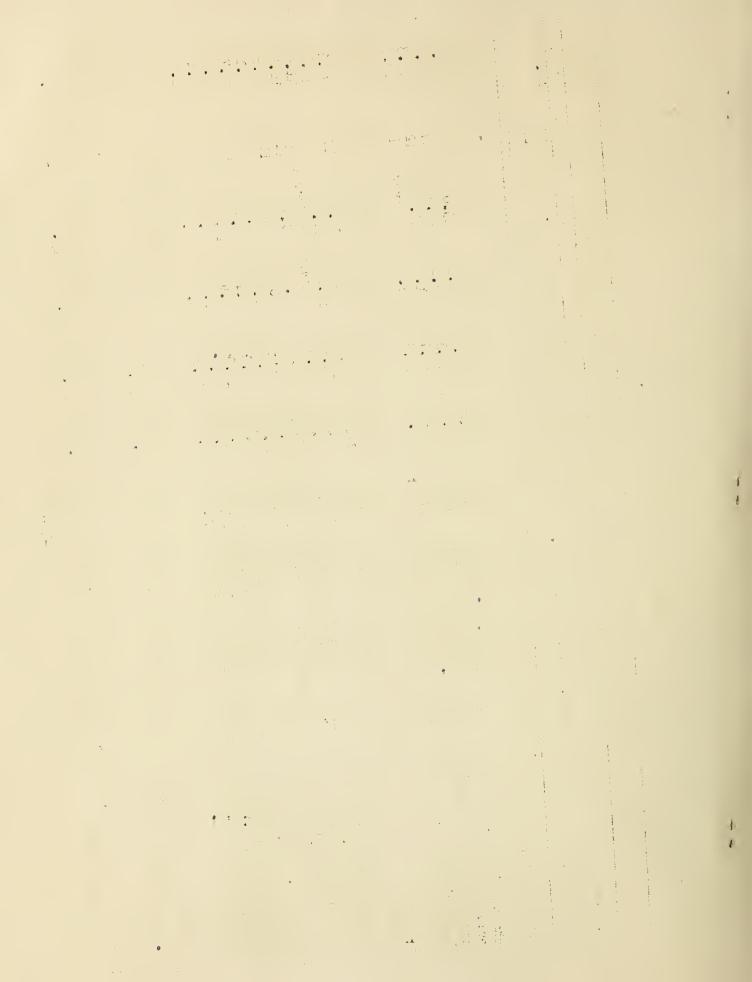
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NEVADA SNOW SURVEYS MARCH 1, 1949

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1000 p	Av.Water Content (inches)	30 %	12.3		32.6	41.6 16.2	11.2	29.7 17.4	8.1				21.3	
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SNOW COVER REASURELENTS	Naber Concest Same Approx.date 1949 1948 1947 1948 1947 1947 1948 1947 1948 1947 1948 1947 1948 1947 1948 1947 1948 1947 1948	۲۱ ک• ۵	0 0 0 0 0 0 0		14.8 12.8	No Survey 2.3	0	7.1 6.4	3.6		New Sr		11.4	
SNOW	1949	27.8	14.7		26.4	37.8 15.6	18.1	26.3	15.2		15.8		10.5	
	Snow Depth (inches)	08 7 0 7	15.8 142.8 144.4		73.4 79.2	98.3 47.6	146.7	53.6	45.0		6*87		29.4	
	Date of Survey	2/25	3/1 3/1 3/4		2/27 2/28	2/27 2/28	2/26 2/28	2/28 2/26	3/1 2/25		3/4		2/26	-10-
	Elev.	7500	7350		8450 6900	7000	6250 6300	6750	6000		7300		0066	
	Rge.	18E	10E 19E 18E		15E	16E	1月	7年1	16 15 15		19E		25压	
N	Twp.		15N 14N 14N			15N 18N					IγN		NT	
LOCATION	Sec.	9 ,	13 E		25.9	21.	7 [†] 1	23 34	177		9		30	
j 1	Number	122	177		(la) 2	7V C	8 (Cal) 10	14 (12)	(cál) 17 18		77		∞	
	DRAINAGE BASIN and SNOW COURSE	TAFOE (Con't.) Echo Summit(Cal.)	Marlette Lake Daggetts Pass Glenbrook #2	TRUCKEE	Independence Lake(Cal) Donner Summit(Cal.)	Ward Creek (Cal.) Sage Hen Creek(Cal)	Tahoe City (Cal.) 8 Independence Creek(Cal) 10	Soda Springs(Cal.) 14 Independence Camp(Cal) 15	Truckee Ranger Sta.(Cal) 17 Donner Lake (Cal) 18	CARSON	Olear Creek	WALKER	Tioga Pass (Cal)	



The following organizations cooperate in the Nevada snow survey work:

FEDERAL

Soil Conservation Service Forest Service Weather Bureau Bureau of Reclamation Geological Survey Fish and Wildlife Service Navy

STATE

Nevada State Engineer
Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station
Nevada Agricultural Extension Service
California Division of Water Resources

MUNICIPAL

City of Bunkerville, Nevada City of Ely, Nevada City of Mesquite, Nevada

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Sierra Pacific Power Company Wells Power Company Virginia City Water Company

ORGANIZED PUBLIC AGENCIES

Truckee-Carson Irrigation District Washoe County Water Conservation District Walker River Irrigation District

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

Deep Springs School Kennecott Copper Corp. Union Pacific Railroad

Other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for the snow survey reports. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

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